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Production
IC 74-2132
18 November 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: C/PRD
DC/PRD

SUBJECT: Misstatement on Solzhenitsyn

REFERENCE: "Nationalist Tendencies Growing Among
Russians in Soviet Union," NID, 12 November
1974. **SECRET**

1. The referenced article is the second by OCI in a current series in the NID on regional tendencies in the USSR. It contains an inadvertent misrepresentation of the views of Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn. The error detracts from the high quality of the rest of the article and is inconsistent with the standards generally achieved by this branch of OCI on Soviet internal politics.* While Solzhenitsyn himself is not a crucial factor in current US policy decisions, the prominence he has attained worldwide and the likelihood he will visit the US in the near future suggest that mention of his name probably attracts the attention of a fair number of the high-level readers of the NID. I hope, therefore, that something can be done in the way of a low-key correction.

2. The error lies in the assertion that 'Solzhenitsyn opposes independence, however, for the Ukrainian and Belorussian republics. The CRS dossier on Solzhenitsyn contains no information supporting that assertion. On the contrary, Solzhenitsyn said this year: "How can there be any question of any peripheral nation being forcibly kept within the bounds of our country" (Letter to the Soviet Leaders, p. 3 of the English edition, p. 28n of the Russian). In a historical context he has strongly criticized Moscow's opposition to "every attempt of any national republic to act upon its right to leave the USSR" (Gulag Archipelago, p. 62 of the English paperback edition).

3. I believe that the author or editor of the referenced article has confused the views of Solzhenitsyn with those of activist Vladimir Osipov, still in the Soviet Union. A previous NID article on the same

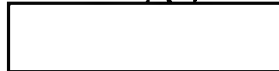
*A report on the nationalities in the USSR, produced last year by the author of the referenced article, is typical of those standards.

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general subject is based on an airgram from Moscow in which Osipov is rather clearly identified with these particular views on non-Russian nationalities, and is portrayed as the typical Russian nationalist.* I therefore recommend a simple change along these lines: 'With reference to the article _____, 'Russian activist Vladimir Osipov' should be substituted throughout for 'exiled writer (author) Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn'. I think the rest tracks as a description of what is known or can reasonably be inferred about Osipov.



Attachment

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*'Soviet Dissidents Follow Two Opposing Courses,' NID, 3 September 1974, CONFIDENTIAL; 'Soviet Dissidents Split on Goals,' Staff Notes: Soviet Union-Eastern Europe, 30 August 1974, CONFIDENTIAL; 'Soviet Dissidence--The Russian Nationalists,' Amappasid For Release 2004/04/13 : CIA-RDP80M01082A000900040001-2